

## SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE NEWS FOR SUNDAY 7 MARCH 2021

Good morning and welcome to the weekly news bulletin of the South African Radio League read by ..... [your name, call sign and QTH]

The South African Radio League broadcasts a news bulletin each Sunday in Afrikaans and English at 08:15 and 08:30 Central African Time respectively on HF and various VHF and UHF repeaters around the country. The bulletin is relayed on Echolink by Johan, ZS6JPL. The audio bulletins can be downloaded from the League website at [www.sarl.org.za](http://www.sarl.org.za) while the text bulletin can be downloaded from <https://sarlnnewsbulletin.wordpress.com/>. To join the Mailchimp bulletin mailing list, send an e-mail to the SARL Secretary.

In the news today:

THE SARL HAMNET CONTEST THIS AFTERNOON

UPDATE ON AMATEUR LICENSE RENEWAL

and

A BUSY WEEKEND FOR 13 AND 14 MARCH

Stay tuned for more information on these and other interesting news items.

We begin the bulletin with news of two silent keys.

It is with deep regret that we announce that the key of Vincent Booysen, ZS1VJB has gone silent. He was incredibly involved in assisting people in need.

We extend our sincere condolences to his family and friends.

It is with deep regret that we announce that the key of Tom Wolstenholme, ZS6TRW went silent on Thursday 4 March 2021 after bravely fighting a short but severe illness.

We extend our sincere condolences to his wife Robyne, sister and family, and friends.

PAUSE

THE SARL HAMNET CONTEST THIS AFTERNOON

The popular SARL HAMNET 40 m Simulated Emergency Contest runs from 12:00 to 14:00 UTC (14:00 to 16:00 CAT) this afternoon Sunday 7 March 2021 and is open to radio amateurs from South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho, eSwatini, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Marion Island and SANAE Base. There are four classes of participation and the exchange depends on the Class you are participating in. Make this a Club field station with a bring-and-braai! Submit your log by 23:59 CAT on Friday 12 March 2021 by e-mail to [contest@peham.co.za](mailto:contest@peham.co.za). Get all the information on page 93 of the 2021 Blue Book before the contest starts.

## UNLOCKING AMATEUR RADIO TECHNOLOGY

The SARL technology symposium will be held on 27 March 2021 from 10:00 to 14:00 CAT. Registration will open next week when details will be published on the SARL web and in next week's SARL News. Registration is free for SARL members and R50 for non-members. The symposium will be presented on the BlueJeans platform.

## UPDATE ON AMATEUR LICENSE RENEWAL

The SARL interacted this week with a senior councillor of ICASA and expressed the League's concern about the complicated license renewal process, long delays, and in many instances unfamiliar terminology used in the process leading to applications being rejected. The SARL pointed out that the promised detailed guidelines and videos have not been forthcoming. In 2019 when the first prototype system was being tested, ICASA undertook to arrange a workshop as part of the quarterly SARL/ICASA liaison meeting. Neither has happened. The SARL, in a separate letter to the Chairperson and CEO, has appealed to ICASA to arrange a liaison meeting between ICASA and the SARL with the appropriate senior officials as required in the MOU as soon as possible.

In this week's interaction with ICASA the SARL also requested that the 1 April dateline for license renewals be delayed by three months or until a workable process has been effected. The Councillor confirmed that the issues raised by the SARL will be discussed at senior level during the coming week and said that he believes that by mid-March ICASA will respond appropriately to the issues raised by the SARL on behalf of Radio Amateurs. The SARL recommends that radio amateurs pay their license as communicated before, but do not attempt to engage the new system until the necessary guidelines and videos explaining the process are made available.

Licensees can pay the license fee via EFT and keep the proof of payment to be used when changing to the new system. Bank details are Nedbank Account number: 14 62 00 29 27, Branch Code: 146245 - Corporate Client Services - Pretoria and in the reference field type in your license number and call sign. The new fees can be found on [www.sarl.org.za](http://www.sarl.org.za).

DO NOT pay the ICASA license fee into the SARL bank account, all money wrongfully paid into the SARL account will be refunded less the bank charges associated with these transactions. As requested before do not e-mail the SARL Secretary or President as they cannot at this stage assist you.

You are listening to a news bulletin of the South African Radio League.

#### RADIO ZS INDEX

Gert, ZS6GC and Cor, ZS6CR have gone through all the issues of Radio ZS available on the League website and compiled an Index of the articles. The Index starts with the November 1925 issue and ends with the March 2021 issue. Follow the link on the front page of the League website to download your copy.

#### A BUSY WEEKEND FOR 13 AND 14 MARCH

During the weekend of 13 and 14 March, you can attend the QSO Today Virtual Expo and take part in the 84th RSGB Commonwealth Contest starting at 10:00 UTC on Saturday and ending 24 hours later. It is CW only on 80, 40, 12, 15 and 10 metres. The exchange is an RST report and a serial number starting at 1, Headquarters stations will also send 'HQ' which must be logged. Find the rules at [www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2021/rberu.shtml](http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2021/rberu.shtml).

Then, the 46 VHF/UHF Group is hosting the first leg of the SARL VHF/UHF Analogue contest from 05:00 to 11:00 UTC (07:00 to 13:00 CAT) on Saturday and Sunday. Activity is on 6 and 2 meters and 70 centimetres and split into 2-hour sessions. 05:00 to 07:00 UTC it is 6 metre, from 07:00 to 09:00 UTC it is 2 metres and from 09:00 to 11:00 UTC it is 70 cm. The exchange is an RS report and your 6-character Maidenhead grid locator. Your log sheet must be submitted by 23:59 CAT on Sunday 21 March 2021 by e-mail to [sarlvhfuhfcontest@gmail.com](mailto:sarlvhfuhfcontest@gmail.com). All the information is on page 44 of the 2021 Blue Book.

The first leg of the SARL National Field Day starts at 08:00 UTC (10:00 CAT) on Saturday 13 March and ends at 06:00 UTC (08:00 CAT) on Sunday 14 March with CW, phone and digital activity on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 metres. The exchange is the number of transmitters at your station, the Field Day operating class and your Provincial or country abbreviation. Take note that Class F: Backyard Stations has been added to the rules. And you can earn 50 bonus points by submitting photographs of the station in action – portrait for Radio ZS cover. Submit your log sheet by 23:59 CAT on Friday 19 March by e-mail to [zs4bfn@mweb.co.za](mailto:zs4bfn@mweb.co.za). The rules are on page 88 of the 2021 Blue Book. SARL News is aware of the Bloemfontein and West Rand Clubs preparing for Field Day.

#### PROPAGATION REPORT

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to be at low levels. There are two sunspot regions with simple magnetic configurations visible. No solar flaring is expected. If you want to do your own frequency predictions, the expected effective sunspot number for the week will be around three. The 15 to 30 m bands will especially during the afternoons provide some good DX fun. Please visit the website [spaceweather.sansa.org.za](http://spaceweather.sansa.org.za) for further information.

Finally, a diary of some upcoming events:

Today – The SARL Hamnet 40 m simulated emergency contest

8 March – International Women’s Day and the West Rand meeting

13 and 14 March – The SARL National Field Day; the SARL VHF/UHF Analogue contest, the RSGB Commonwealth contest and the QSO Today Virtual Expo

16 March – The PEARS and Border ARC meetings

17 March – St Patrick’s Day and the SARL 80 m Club Sprint

20 March – Autumn Equinox at 11:37 CAT and the Magalies and Highway ARC meetings

21 March – Human Rights Day in South Africa and Independence Day in Namibia

22 March – Public Holiday in Namibia and South Africa and World Water Day

23 March – World Meteorological Day

27 March – The SARL Technical Symposium on the Bluejeans platform; the Cape Town and Boland Club meetings.

27 and 28 March – The CQ WPX SSB Contest

To conclude our bulletin, a recap of our main news story:

The popular SARL HAMNET 40 m Simulated Emergency Contest runs from 12:00 to 14:00 UTC (14:00 to 16:00 CAT) this afternoon Sunday 7 March 2021. There are four classes of participation and the exchange depends on the Class you are participating in. Get all the information on page 93 of the 2021 Blue Book before the contest starts.

This concludes our bulletin for this morning.

We invite clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to radio amateurs and shortwave listeners, in both English and Afrikaans, if possible, by following the News Inbox link on the South African Radio League web page. News items to include in the bulletin should reach the news team no later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date.

You are welcome to join us every Sunday morning for the weekly radio program, Amateur Radio Today at 10:00 CAT. The program can be heard on VHF and UHF repeaters countrywide and on 7 082 kHz lower side-band by courtesy of Louis, ZS5LP. A rebroadcast by Andy, ZS6ADY, can be heard on Monday evenings at 19:30 CAT on 3 620 kHz.

We welcome your signal reports, comments, and suggestions; please send these by e-mail to [artoday@sarl.org.za](mailto:artoday@sarl.org.za).

You have listened to a news bulletin compiled by Dennis Green, ZS4BS, edited by Herman Erasmus, ZS6CTA and read by .....

From the news team, best wishes for the week ahead.